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RICO, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

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# reading roved for get andments

icial meeting was held nesday evening to ask board members to aplist reading of amendudget by \$23,750.00, et amendment will retional costs for studynate sewer treatments.

bleak. Assessed valusidential property was 1997 than it is today, ported by Town Manon Harrison that it has \$200,000.00 from ne despite population

on stated, "We have ople to serve with a ix base."

ax revenue is the clos-Rico Theatre and Cafe a decline in sales tax The Cafe is the second arce of revenue for the

son will be recomto the town board to osts by continuing to set lights off, salary town employees, cut reduce staff. In addibe recommending that ployee's health insuractible be raised.

from Board will be ng multiple budget sions before adopting sudget. The first meeteduled for Sept. 10th, town hall.



Ted Linnert, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA; Sheldon Muller, Enforcement Attorney, EPA; David Williams, NPL (Superfund) Coordinator, EPA; Mark Walker, Project Manager, VCP, CDPHE; and Carol Russell, Mining Technical Coordinator, EPA, held a community meeting.

## EPA holds community meeting

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency conducted an open house last Wednesday evening at the request of the Town which was attended by some 30-35 concerned residents.

Both EPA and State officials provided a presentation of environmental issues, regulatory authority and procedures, and options for environmental remediation in the Rico area. There was no shortage of questions from the Rico audience.

Carol Russell, Mining Technical Coordinator for the EPA, opened the meeting with a brief history and explanation of the mining industry in Rico. Russell explained that most mining districts have high levels of metals in the soil, such as lead, zinc, and cadmium, which can affect

humans if transported by air or water. The high level of metals in soils in mining districts occur both naturally and as a result of past mining activities. Russell emphasized that young developing children are more at risk from heavy metal contamination, especially lead, and urged parents to at least clean their children's hands after playing outside.

Mark Walker, Project Manager for the Voluntary Cleanup Program with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, then discussed past voluntary cleanup activities performed by ARCO in the Rico area. ARCO completed a voluntary cleanup project of 6 different tailings pile areas in 1996 which involved capping the tailings with a foot and a half of gravel and improving the drainage to reduce water contamination.

Walker also discussed Brownfields projects in the continued on page 4

## Installation of playground equipment halted

The installation of the new playground equipment was delayed from the original date and rescheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 6th & 7th, June 12, 2003 to Dolores County School District for approval has not beer finalized.

It was reported by Town Manager Ashton Harrison that

#### EPA will return to test individual home sites

continued from page 1

Rico area. The Town previously applied for an initial Brownfields Assessment grant project to study the potential for redeveloping the St. Louis Tunnel area as a light industrial site and redeveloping the maintenance garage area as a river front hotel. Walker stated that... the test results for both potential Brownfields sites looked very promising and thought that both areas could be redeveloped with simple environmental remediation. According to Walker the current Bush administration has placed much more

funding emphasis Brownfields projects than other areas of the EPA

Sheldon Muller, the Enforcement Attorney for the EPA. discussed the pending enforcement action over the abandoned treatment facility for the St. Louis Tunnel discharge and the proposed settlement with the estates of Virginia Sell and Wayne Webster. The treatment facilities were abandoned in 1996 by Rico Development Corporation (the holder of the state discharger permit and predecessor to Rico Properties/ Rico Renaissance). EPA filed

an enforcement action in Federal District court in July of 1999 against Rico Development Corporation and their officers, Virginia Sell and Wayne Webster. During the investigation both Sell and Webster passed away, leaving the EPA to potentially consider enforcement against other "potentially responsible parties", including Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), National Lead Industries, and current land owners Rico Renaissance and Rico Properties.

Other types of enforcement the EPA can pursue would be

under the Clean Water Act. CERCLA, and Resource Conservation Hazardous. When ofders are issued under CERCLA, it's issued to individual potentially responsible parties. Parties that don't comply with orders are subject to penalties up to three times the amount that EPA spends on clean up.

David Williams, Superfund Coordinator with the EPA, explained the National Priority List (NPL) procedures for the Rico area to be designated a Superfund site. Williams stated that NPL listing and Superfund designation can

make federal funding available to cleanup sites. Superfund funding could allow cleanup to move forward more quickly. The EPA would then seek to recover cleanup expenditures from potentially responsible parties. While Superfund designation can bring in potential funding, the Superfund has not received any new appropriations from Congress since 1994, according to Williams. Williams said that there were currently 114 sites in Colorado on the NPL. 15 of those sites were put on the NPL just in the last year. continued on page 6

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#### Karl Denson's Tiny Universe to take the stage at B&B Festival

Having earned international popularity as a top artist on the touring circuit, Karl Denson is still intent on expanding the perception of his music. The newest album from Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, The Bridge deepens the group's dynamic sound with the help of hip-hop activist Michael Franti of Spearhead, street poet Saul Williams, members of Blackalicious, and legendary horn players Fred Wesley and Roy Hargrove.

With Denson's vocals figuring prominently in the mix. The Bridge represents both a decisive



became the top dance track in Europe. "I remember touring with Lenny overseas and hearing that time in every club we went

Greyboy Allstars and five equally bold solo albums.

Denson further cemented this reputation when he formed Karl Denson's Tiny Universe in 1998 and released Dance Lesson #2 last year. A multigenre mix of music, the album earned immense critical praise.

"This project is just who I am. It's a mix between my own ideas and the music of people like Fela Kuti," Denson explains. "With Fela you gotta dig him for a while - like James Brown - to get really deep into the music and

what he was trying to say with it." KDTU will be performing at the

1818 (III thyuarius) siiviii ...... etail in a good telescope, espeally when viewed high in the cy during good atmospheric seeig. Mars will remain this big and right for a couple more weeks. dars rotates once in 24.6 hours, o the face it presents to you will hange only slightly from one light to the next if you observe

of Capella. Uranus and Neptune (magnitudes 5.7 and 7.8 in Aquarius and Capricornus, respectively) are well up in the south-southeast by late evening, not far from Mars. Pluto (magnitude 14, in Ophiuchus) is in the southwest right after dark.

## EPA ready

continued from page 1 If Rico wanted to go the Superfund route, the community would have to express support for it and then Governor Owens would have to endorse any Superfund designation and

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#### Sensitive dly Staff

David Schaak id has worked for Ertel Funeral Home veral years. Since his college days ing for a funeral home. David has interested in becoming a funeral tor. Like the other employees at Ertel ral Home, David grew up in this nunity and has known Ertel's lation for caring for this community the years.

vid is married and has three hters. He enjoys playing and watching inds of sports, especially softball and ethall. David's family is very close knit the family travels together to watch irls play sports or perform in the ching band. He is active in his church. rying the community that he grew up lavid hopes that through his essionalism he can bring comfort to e that have lost a loved one. David has ill designing an appropriate monument eet the wishes of those purchasing a nanent memorial.

nce when needed most.

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#### to enforce

inclusion on the National Priority List. Ward, CO, was recently included on the National Priority List and designated a Superfund area.

During the public comment period resident Catherine Allen brought attention to the fact that the worst remediation/ brownfields area is in the county, not in Rico city limits. "I resent the fact we have to take the burden on to promote clean up," Allen said, "why isn't the county involved?" Walker responded to that question by saying, "A county environmental contact is nonexistent, but we will look into it by contacting the county commissioners."

Chuck Stillwell, project manager with ARCO, stated that ARCO has been conducting studies and preparing plans for a new treatment plant at the St. Louis Tunnel.

ARCO has pursued a voluntary cleanup plan whereby ARCO, Rico Renaissance and the Town of Rico would form a nonprofit corporation to hold a discharge permit and own the property.

ARCO has publicly stated in several meetings that they are willing to pay the construction and operation costs of a new treatment plant.

Town Trustee Judy Schaefer expressed concern about the potential liability if the Town becomes a member of such a nonprofit corporation. Town Attorney, Eric Heil, said that he has been working closely with ARCO and Renaissance to structure such a nonprofit in a way that would minimize poten22 Star of 15-Across 26 Earned a Tony, maybe Throw into the 36 \*Das Lied von 29 In need of

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tial town liability.

Heil went on to say that significant progress had been made last spring on the terms of the nonprofit, but the paperwork was delayed because of complications in the permitting process by the State.

According to Heil the potential benefits of a voluntary cleanup approach are that cleanup would occur sooner, the Town could monitor effectiveness better than state or federal agents in Denver, the nonprofit could promote the brownfields redevelopment projects, and the nonprofit could potentially promote restoration of the river corridor and watershed improvements.

Stillwell indicated that draft plans and nonprofit corporation paperwork should be ready for review within a couple months.

After all the questions were asked and answered the meeting was ended. The EPA plans to con-

duct more extensive soil testing in the Rico area and will request permission from private property owners to test their yards.

Steve Bubnick, Environmental Scientist Investigator from Denver clearly stated that in the incidence that a high level of metals is found in a yard the normal procedure would be to have the soil stripped off, from a depth of a few inches to as many as 18, depending on the site, and replaced with clean soil. Lead and arsenic would be the two biggest concerns.

In the worse case scenario, it the site was highly contaminated, a medical monitoring device would be used on children (teenagers to babies) to deter mine the blood level of toxicity

Bubnick said the cost of thi type of remediation would fall solely on the mining company or other various governments sources and not the propert owner.

#### NUGGET THEATRE

Sept. 3 - Sept. 10

Please call the Nugget Theatre for this week's new movies.

Supported by the Telluride Film Festival and the Town of Telluride 207 W. Colorado Ave. in Telluride